

**Order of Worship March 6, 2022  
First Sunday in Lent**

**(no gathering music this week)**

*Welcome*

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

*Call To Worship*

*Liturgist*

Come to the Lord with openness, seeking God's presence whatever it brings. Bring doubt, bring belief. Seek the Lord and live.

Hymn

Lord, When I Came into This Life

GTG #691

Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;  
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,  
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,  
let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:  
feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.

**PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

*Call to Confession*

*Liturgist*

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, even when we are ungodly, we confess our sins in faith.

***Prayer of Confession***

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen*

***Words of Forgiveness***

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the World, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

**Hearing the Word**

***Message for all God's Children***

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Prayer of Illumination**

*Liturgist*

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Old Testament Reading:***

***Numbers 5:4-9***

*Liturgist*

4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,[a] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

***Gospel Reading:***

***John 3: 1-21***

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.[a]” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You[c] must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”[d] “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.[e] Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,[f] that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”[g] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

***Anthem***

***God So Loved the World***

***Sermon***

***“Where Are We In Our Walk With Jesus”***

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

**Responding to the Word**

***Hymn***

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

*GTG #835*

***Refrain:***

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. [Refrain]

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. [Refrain]

*Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

***Invitation to the Offering***

*Liturgist*

In plenty and in want, all that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful heirs of the promises of God.

*Doxology*

**GTG #607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. AMEN**

*Offertory Prayer*

*Liturgist*

**Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

*Communion*

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

*Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

*Prayer After Communion*

***Hymn***

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days    *GTG #166*

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,  
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,  
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

***Benediction***

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

***Postlude***